

Bird Notes from Kelantan¹

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FROM August 1950 to May 1951, I was working as agricultural officer for the States of Kelantan and Trengganu, and during this period lived at Kota Bharu, on the Kelantan River. Very little original information is at present available about the birds of the north-eastern Malay States, and the only published papers giving notes on Kelantan birds known to me are Bonhote (1901) and Young (1940 & 1941): there are also some references in Gibson-Hill (1949) based on observations by the author and A. T. Edgar. The following notes have been selected from a number made during my stay in Kota Bharu as likely to be of interest in the present state of our knowledge of the Malayan avifauna. They refer mostly to Kelantan, but I have included a few observations made during visits by road to Kuala Trengganu. I have also, in some cases, added personal observations made outside this area where it seems of value to record them.

For convenience of cross-reference I have used the numbers and names employed in the Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Malaya (*Bull. Raff. Mus.*, No. 20, September, 1949). Egg shell colours are described with reference to Ridgway's *Color standards & color nomenclature* (Washington, D.C., 1912). A map of Kelantan and northern Trengganu appears on page .

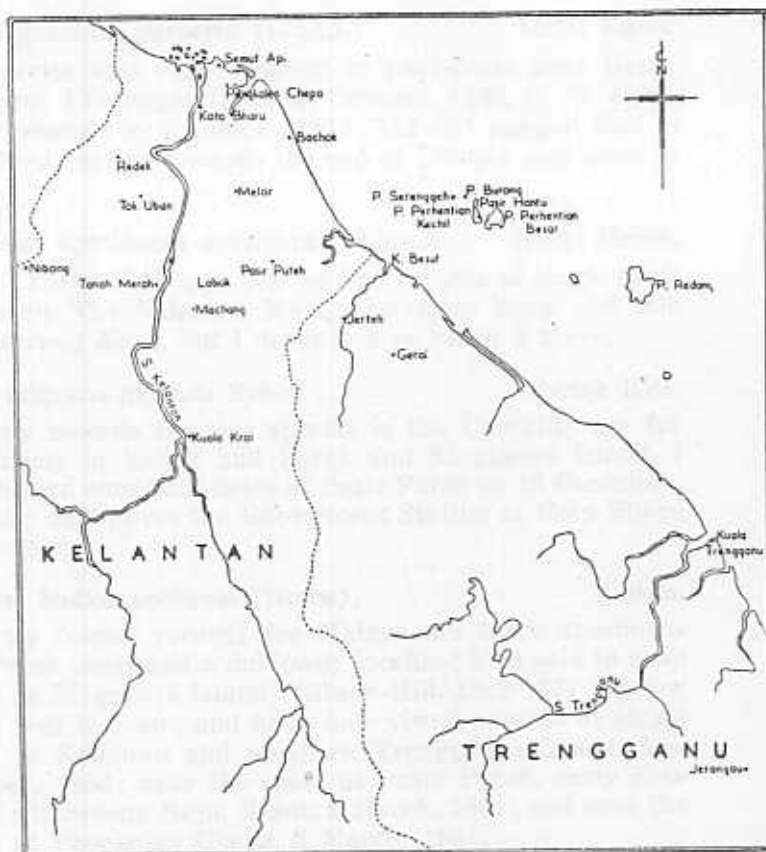
14. *Ardea purpurea manilensis* Meyen. Purple Heron.

There are apparently very few east coast records for this species. I saw a single bird in a tree in Kampong Puteh, Kota Bharu on 25 December, 1950.

16. *Ardeola bacchus* (Bp.). Chinese Pond-Heron.

Young (1941: 154) says that he noted pairs or single examples of this species about the Kelantan River from October to February, mostly in October and November. I saw four birds in a swamp on the Limau Hantu Grazing Reserve at Machang, Kelantan, on 10 October, 1950. On 12 April, 1951, there were three adults in full breeding plumage at the 60th mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Jerteh: none was seen there on 10 May. Madoc (in Gibson-Hill, 1949: 23) describes this species as

¹. Completed and accepted for publication June 1951. Some of the observations recorded here were published in *Malayan Nature Journal*, 7, 1 (March 1952), pp. 10-14.



Sketch map of parts of Kelantan and Trengganu showing the position of the principal places mentioned in the accompanying paper. "a regular and fairly plentiful winter visitor" to the Kuantan district of Pahang, but it is not, apparently, equally numerous further north.

17. *Ardeola ibis coromanda* (Bodd.).

Cattle Egret.

This species was very common in open country between Pasir Puteh and Gerai (Trengganu) throughout the winter of 1950-51. Birds were still there, not all in breeding plumage, on 12 April, 1951, but I saw none three weeks later.

18. *Egretta alba modesta* (Gray).

Large Egret.

A single bird was seen at the 60th mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Jerleh on 12 April, 1951. There do not appear to be any previous records from the north-eastern states.

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19. *Egretta garzetta garzetta* (Linn.). Little Egret.

This species was very common in padi-fields near Gerai, south of Besut (Trengganu), from October, 1950, to 12 April, 1951. Data collected by Bromley (1949: 122-23) suggest that in Kedah the birds arrive towards the end of October and leave in May.

23. *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* (Linn.). Night Heron.

Young (1941: 154) says that he had records of single birds from Kelantan. The Kelantan Malays certainly know and talk about the *Burong Kuek*, but I never saw or heard it there.

47. *Milvus migrans govinda* Sykes. Pariah Kite.

The only records for this species in the Checklist are for coastal districts in Kedah and Perak and Singapore Island. I saw a single bird over padi-fields at Pasir Puteh on 18 December, 1950, and one again over the Experiment Station at Kota Bharu on 26 December.

49. *Accipiter badius poliopsis* (Hume). Shikra.

The only formal records for Malaya are three specimens from the Perak coast and a dubiously localised bird said to have been taken on Singapore Island (Gibson-Hill, 1949: 37). I knew the Shikra well in Siam, and have four visual records of single birds seen in Kelantan and northern Trengganu: Semut Api, 29 December, 1950; near the coast at Pasir Puteh, early February 1951; Kampong Raja, Besut, 2 March, 1951; and over the aerodrome at Pengkalen Chepa, 8 March, 1951.

51. *Accipiter trivirgatus rufitinctus* (Horsf.). Crested Goshawk.

I saw a solitary bird over the Experiment Station at Kota Bharu on 24 December, 1950. I also have a record of a single bird seen in a tree by the river at Telok Anson, Perak, on 20 February, 1947.

63. *Torgos calvus* (Scop.). King Vulture.

This is undoubtedly the common vulture in Kelantan. To my knowledge it is plentiful as far south as Kuala Trengganu.

64. *Gyps indicus mudiceps* Baker. Longbilled Vulture.

I never saw this bird in Kelantan, and feel that it must be scarce in this area as well as elsewhere in Malaya.

65. *Pseudogyps bengalensis* (Gmel.). Whitebacked Vulture.

This vulture is fairly common in north-western Malaya, but I have only two records from Kelantan, both of solitary birds: Pasir Puteh, 6 September, 1950; Kota Bharu, 28 February, 1951.

73. *Microhierax fringillarius* (Drap.). Falconet.

The majority of the Malayan breeding records for this bird show laying in January or February. I found a pair nesting 50 feet from the ground in a dead tree in the Labok Grazing Reserve on 15 April, 1951.

78. *Excalfactoria chinensis chinensis* (Linn.). Bluebreasted Button-Quail.

The Button-Quail is common in open, settled country in Kelantan, as it is in other parts of Malaya. The breeding season probably extends from the end of December to August. On 27 August, 1950, I saw young birds not more than a week old in a cage in Kota Bharu. My next records are from the Melor Experiment Station, where I found three nests in a dry padi field on 28 December, 1950 (lc/5, lc/7 & lc/8). On 19 February, 1951, I saw two more nests in the same area (lc/5 & lc/8): six of the eggs from the last clutch measured 27×20 , 26×19 , 26×20 , 28×20 , 27×20 and 27×21 mm. Edgar (1933: 122), writing of the Sitiawan district of Perak, says that there the nesting season runs from January to April; and the clutch generally consists of 6 or 7 eggs: he mentions only one record of 8 eggs. Madoc (1947: 1-2) says that the breeding season is said to extend from January to August, and that the clutch varies from 5 to 7 eggs: 5 to 8 eggs would seem to be more nearly correct. The incubation period lasts about 16 days.

91. *Turnix suscitator* (Gmel.) subsp.² Barred Bustard-Quail.

I found two nests of this bird in 1951, both in padi stubble on the Experiment Station at Melor. The first had three eggs on 25 February: two hatched on 4 March; the third, 21×17 mm., was addled. The second nest was found with four eggs on 13 March: all four hatched two days later. Both nests were more exposed than those of the Button-Quail occurring in the same locality: the young are noticeably smaller, and grey rather than brown.

² Probably the northern race, *T. s. interruptens* Rob. & Baker, No. 91b of the checklist, but I have not been able to examine any skins from Kelantan. Birds taken for me south of Kuala Trengganu in August 1950, are of the southern form, *T. s. atrogularis* (Eyton). (Gibson-Hill).

93. *Rallus striatus gularis* Horsf. Slatybreasted Rail.

A nest of this species was found at Pasir Puteh on 22 February, 1951. It was situated on the side of the boundary dyke of a wet padi field and shaded by long grass. It contained one egg, 32×24 mm. The nest was deserted a few days later when the padi was harvested. It consisted of a pad, composed mostly of padi stems with some pieces of grass, placed on a clod of earth. The pad was approximately 8 by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches across and $3\frac{1}{3}$ inches thick, with the cup about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

147. *Glareola maldivarum* (Forest.). Eastern Pratincole.

Young (1941: 150) says this bird is a very uncertain visitor to Kelantan, and records only "small parties seen over the main river near Sokor Estate, from 7. iii. 33 to 11. iii. 33." I certainly found it more plentiful than his account suggests, and am of the opinion that it is probably breeding in Kelantan and northern Trengganu: the possibility of its doing so in Kedah is discussed by Gibson-Hill (1950b: 117), who also refers to a bird seen by A. T. Edgar at Semerak, on the Kelantan coast, on 1 June, 1950. Herbert (1926: 344) reports nesting in central Siam with fresh eggs from mid-March to mid-June: Madoc (1950: 160-61) says that in 1949 the first arrivals appeared near Bangkok on 6 March, and that he found a nest with three fresh eggs on 8 May. I first saw pratincoles at Kota Bharu on 3 September, and they were generally common in Kelantan throughout the winter of 1950-51. On 1 April, 1951, I saw a single bird over an irrigated rice field at Pasir Puteh. On 14 April I again saw a solitary bird over a padi field, this time at Kota, near the 5th mile on the road from Kota Bharu to Kuala Krai. A single bird was still present there on 7 May, and on 16 May there were two, but I was not able to find a nest. On 10 May I saw a solitary bird over a grazing ground at the 6th mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Kuala Brang.

153. *Sterna sumatrana sumatrana* Raffles. Blacknaped Tern.

The Blacknaped Tern is fairly common in the neighbourhood of the Perhentian Islands. On 31 May, 1951, we found a number of eggs on Pulau Tengku Burong and Pulau Serenggeh. Fishermen from Pasir Hantu, on Perhentian Kechil, said that they had already raided the colonies once. This still leaves the beginning of the laying season later than in the Gulf of Siam, but it is earlier than any of the Malayan records reported by Gibson-Hill (1950a: 28-29), except for the clutch taken by Madoc in the Langkawi group in May, 1940.

155. *Sterna albifrons* subsp.

Little Tern.

Two adults and a newly hatched young of this species were found on a spit of sand on the coast at Sēmut Api, near the delta of the Kelantan River, on 26 August, 1950. According to the local fishermen there had been several nests there earlier in the season.

170. *Ducula bicolor* (Scop.).

Pied Imperial Pigeon.

The Pied Imperial Pigeon is plentiful in the Perhentian group, and apparently breeds there in some numbers. On 30 May, 1951, I saw a month-old chick at Pasir Hantu, on Pulau Perhentian Kechil: it was said to have come from a nest at the top of a palm tree on Pulau Perhentian Besar. The following day we found a scattered colony in a small jungle of *Gēlam tikus* (*Eugenia* sp.) and *Jambu arang* (*Elaeocarpus paniculatus* Wall.) on Pulau Serenggeh. The majority of the nests were 15 to 20 feet from the ground, some higher and a few lower. We located about twenty nests, and estimated that there were over fifty on the island. The nests are typical of the family, 10-12 inches in diameter and very shallow. Each contained a single chick or, in a few cases, an egg. Five eggs measured 43×31.5 , 45×30 , 43.5×31.5 , 43×32 and 46×32 mm.

175. *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* (Temm.).

Spotted Dove.

S. chinensis is not as common in Kelantan as might be expected.

176. *Geopelia striata striata* (Linn.).

Barred Ground-Dove.

This bird is very common in Kelantan. A nest containing two young chicks was found in a Rambutan tree at Melor on 27 January, 1951. Nests, each containing two eggs, were also found at Kota Bharu or Melor on 21, 24 and 25 February, 12 March, and 4, 6, 7 and 13 April. The nests were mostly about 10 feet above the ground, but some were as low as 4 feet. The eggs in lc/2 measured 23×18 mm.

178. *Caloenas nicobarica nicobarica* (Linn.).

Nicobar Pigeon.

During the visit to Pulau Serenggeh on 31 May, 1951, we saw two larger and deeper nests among those of *Ducula bicolor* which we were told belonged to the present species. One was about 12 feet from the ground in a fork of a *Gēlam tikus* tree, *Eugenia* sp.: it was about 12 inches in diameter and 9 inches in height, and was composed entirely of sticks. The other was similar to it in form, but rather higher from the ground. Neither contained eggs. The only fully authenticated nest of this species

so far recorded in Malaya is one taken by E. Seimund on Pulau Jarak, in the Malacca Strait. It is described as "a loosely constructed platform of twigs with a very few dead leaves, perhaps introduced accidentally; in size it is an approximate square of 12 in. or rather more, and although in the bottom layers there is some attempt at 'weaving' the nest seems little more than a carelessly piled bundle of twigs," (Robinson & Chasen, 1936: 65). The egg, now in the Raffles Museum collection, measures 48×34.5 mm.; the collection also contains another egg, 43×33 mm., said to have been taken on Pulau Tioman in September 1907. Bonhote (1901: 77) lists an example of the Nicobar Pigeon from Kota Bharu which probably came from the Perhentians or Great Redang, off Trengganu.

179. *Psittacula longicauda longicauda* (Bodd.).

Longtailed Paroquet.

A single example of this species was seen flying over jungle near 25th mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Jerteh on 10 April, 1951. The Long-tailed Paroquet has not been recorded from Kelantan, and was not previously known from Trengganu. For a long time the most northerly limit of its range on the west side of the peninsula was thought to be the region of the Perak-Kedah boundary (Bonhote, 1901: 78), but recently Madoc (1947: 36) has reported its presence in south Kedah.

182. *Clamator coromandus* (Linn.).

Redwinged Crested Cuckoo.

Solitary individuals of this species were seen in Kota Bharu on 30 December, 1950, and 25 January, 1951. The only previous record for the eastern states is Young (1941: 156), who saw examples near the Kelantan River above Temangan.

200. *Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus* (Blyth).

Large Greenbilled Malkoha.

In Kelantan, as in Kedah, this species is fairly common in wooded villages in padi land. On 19 March, 1951, I found a nest about 7 feet above the ground in a *Mengkudu* tree, *Morinda citrifolia* Linn., at Melor. The nest, which was made of twigs and leaves, was about 6-7 inches in diameter and fairly shallow. The birds had deserted, leaving two eggs, 30×23 and 31×24 mm., about ten days set. On 10 March, 1951, at Kampong Telipot, Kota Bharu, I was shown two well-feathered chicks and one smaller bird which were said to have come from a nest about 20 feet from the ground near the top of a Mangosteen tree.

217. *Ketupa ketupa ketupa* (Horsf.).

Fish Owl.

The Fish Owl is common in Kelantan. On 7 April, 1951, at Kampong Telipot, Kota Bharu, I was shown a fledgling which was said to have "fallen" out of a nest in a large orchid, growing some 60 feet from the ground in a Durian tree.

227. *Eurostopodus macrotis cerviniceps* (Gould).

Giant Nightjar.

A single example of this species was seen in a Rambutan tree on the Experiment Station at Kota Bharu on 17 October, 1950. This is the first record of the occurrence of the Giant Nightjar in the eastern Malay States. On the west it is said to be fairly common in northern Kedah (Bromley, 1949: 125), and to have been seen as far south as the aerodrome at Alor Star.

229. *Caprimulgus macrurus bimaculatus* Peale.

Longtailed Nightjar.

This bird is very common in Kelantan. Two nests were found. The first was discovered on 1 March, 1951, in a rubber budwood nursery on the Experiment Station at Kota Bahru. The two eggs both measured 32×23 mm. One hatched early on 13 March: by 28 March the chick was able to fly. The second nest was found at Melor on 7 April, 1951, also in a rubber nursery. The eggs measured 32×24 and 31×24 mm.

231. *Collocalia lowi robinsoni* Stres.

Robinson's Swiftlet.

Two colonies of this bird were discovered in the Perhentians on 31 May, 1951. The first was on Pulau Perhentian Kechil: it was situated in a narrow fissure in the granite rock running from Pasir Hantu beyond Pantai Panjang to Goa Buaya. Nests had already been taken from this cave once, and the birds had built and laid again: the majority of the eggs had hatched by the time of my visit. Three eggs measured 23.5×16 , 22.5×16 and 23.5×15 mm. The second colony was on Pulau Serenggeh, in a very small, low cave near the water's edge. It contained a few examples of the present species, and a number of *C. francica* (No. 233).³ *C. lowi* tends to stay on its nest even when one approaches close to it, while *francica* flies out as soon as the cave is entered: the latter also has a shriller *cheep-cheep*. Three eggs of the present species from Pulau Serenggeh measured 23×15.5 , 23×15 and 23×15.5 mm.

³ *Collocalia francica* (Gmel.). Two races probably occur in Malaya, but the picture is confused, and in the absence of specimens it is not possible to assign a trinomial designation to the Pulau Serenggeh birds. (Gibson-Hill).

241. *Cypsiurus parvus infumatus* (Sclat.). Palm Swift.

This bird is very common in Kelantan. It nests in the *Tal* palms, *Borassus flabellifera* Linn., 30-40 feet from the ground.

259. *Halcyon smyrnensis fusca* (Bodd.). Whitebreasted Kingfisher.

This species again is very common in Kelantan. Nesting noted in March, April and May.

260. *Halcyon pileata* (Bodd.). Blackcapped Kingfisher.

This bird did not appear to be as common in Kelantan during the winter 1950-51 as I remember it being in Perak in previous years.

261. *Halcyon chloris humii* Sharpe. Whitecollared Kingfisher.

In Kelantan, this species may occur well inland. I noted it at Melor, 11 miles from the coast, and at Tok Uban, 16 miles away.

263. *Merops leschenaulti leschenaulti* Vieill. Bayheaded Bee-eater.

This was the commonest of the bee-eaters when I arrived in Kota Bharu in the middle of August, occurring in large flocks, 40-50 strong. From the beginning of October *M. superciliosus*, the next species, became the most numerous from round the town, though the present bird was still to be seen in small numbers elsewhere, especially on the *bēris* (particularly at Semut Api, Pengkalen Chepa, Bachok and even Tanah Merah). *M. superciliosus* began to disappear about the middle of March: on 27 March I noted that there were only two in my garden whereas before there might well have been 30. I first saw *M. viridis* (No. 265 below) on 17 March, but within a fortnight I noted it as "now much the most common bee-eater in Kelantan". On 1 and 10 April I found it "very common everywhere, all the way to Trengganu". I did not see *M. superciliosus* after the end of March, but the other two species remained plentiful on the *bēris*.

I have no doubt that the present species is nesting in Kelantan. I have had pairs under spasmodic observation at Pengkalen Chepa and Bachok, but I did not have sufficient time to search thoroughly for the nests. I found a Malay who claimed to have dug one out (as happens commonly) and to have taken a young bird with a yellow chin from it. He offered to show the chick to me, but when I reached his house I was told that the cat had eaten it.

264. *Merops superciliosus philippinus* Linn.

Brownbreasted Bee-eater.

This bird is clearly only a winter visitor and passage migrant: see the note above under *M. leschenaulti*.

265. *Merops viridis viridis* Linn.

Bluethroated Bee-eater.

This species is common on the Kelantan plain from the end of March until at least the end of May. It nests in small numbers all over the sandy areas known locally as *bēris*.⁴

267. *Coracias benghalensis affinis* McClell.

Burmese Roller.

The Checklist describes this bird as a "Non-breeding Visitor, to Kelantan", but it is certainly resident in suitable sandy areas in the State. In March 1951, whenever I went to the Malay Regiment Headquarters at Pengkalen Chepa, I saw two birds very interested in a hollow coconut palm close to the depot. On 24 April I found a pair nesting in a hole on the top of a dead palm on the road to Sabak. On 4 May I was shown two nests in dead coconut palms near Bachok: in both cases the adults were feeding young, and on 17 May I saw a young bird which had been taken from one of these nests.

282. *Megalaima zeylanicus hodgsoni* (Bt.).

Lineated Dull Barbet.

The Dull Barbet is very common on the Kelantan plain and at least as far south as the Trengganu River. On 1 April, 1951, I saw a nest, 40 feet from the ground, in a Medan tree in the village at Melor. The birds were feeding young: the food included a large spider. On 9 April I found a nest 15 feet up in a *Mengkudu* tree (*Morinda citrifolia*) on the edge of an irrigation dyke at Bukit Kechil, Melor. The eggs had already hatched. On 2 May the chicks had just left the nest, and I saw Medan berries (*Litsea* sp.) and a preying mantis being fed to them. The birds sometimes come down to the ground to catch grasshoppers and worms, much as the Green Woodpecker does in England.

320. *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus malaccensis* Salvad.

Black-and-Red Broadbill.

This bird is very common in swampy areas along the road between Kuala Trengganu and Jerteh. On 6 February I saw no nests along the roadside: eight weeks later, on 1 April I counted 9 nests on the telephone wires.

⁴ *Bēris*. Raised areas of light or sandy soil, generally considered to have been sea beaches.

331. *Delichon urbica dasypus* Bp. Japanese House-Martin.

A solitary example was seen over a garden in Kota Bharu on 25 December, 1950. Young (1940: 62) gives visual records of this bird from Sokor Estate, on the Kelantan River, where he saw a single bird on 21 January, 1938 (identification doubtful) and a pair on 13 October, 1940. The Japanese House-Martin is certainly not a common winter visitor to Malaya, and at present there are only two formal and six visual records, of which two are doubtful.

367. *Pellorneum ruficeps subochraceum* Swinh. Striped Babbler.

The Striped Babbler is common in Kelantan. I have one record of a nest: it was found at Bukit Kechil, Melor, on 15 May, 1951. It was a domed structure, composed of bamboo leaves and placed on the ground in a bamboo clump growing in *bélukar*. It contained three eggs, 25×15 , 20×15 and 20×15.5 mm. The eggs are white, with fine chestnut and auburn streaks and blotches; these are thickest round the broader end, where there is also a ring of gull-grey blotches lying under the brown markings.

427. *Pycnonotus jocosus pattani* Deignan. Redwhiskered Bulbul.

This attractive bird is very common in Kelantan, especially in the towns. It occurs along the whole length of the Nibong road, and at least as far as Labok on the road to Kuala Krai. On the Kuala Trengganu road it extends as far as Besut, but I have not recorded it further south. The nest is generally placed rather higher than that of *P. goiavier* (No. 431 below): it is rarely less than 8 feet from the ground, but I have one record of a pair nesting as low as 4 feet, in a croton bush. It is rather insecurely attached to a fork of the tree or bush. It resembles the nests of the other common bulbuls, except that it is usually covered on the outside with bamboo leaves and adorned with circular fern fronds (*Duit Hantu*, *Drymoglossum heterophyllum*). The body is about 4 inches across and 3 deep, with the cup $2\frac{1}{4}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The main season for laying is from the end of February to the beginning of May. The clutch normally consists of 3 eggs, but towards the end of the breeding season it is not unusual to find only 2. The eggs are about 21×15.5 mm. They are normally fairly thickly but finely speckled and blotched with chestnut, auburn and light violet-grey on a white ground: the

markings are often thickest round the broadest part of the egg. Outside the breeding season the birds collect in small flocks of up to 25-30 members.

429. *Pycnonotus zeylanicus* (Gmel.). Yellowcrowned Bulbul.

Several birds were heard singing on Pulau Perhentian Kecil. There would seem to be no reason why this species should not be present on several of the larger islands off the Malayan coast, but so far it has been recorded formally only from Penang and Pulau Ubin (Johore Strait).

431. *Pycnonotus goiavier personatus* (Hume).

Yellowvented Bulbul.

In Kelantan this species is appreciably less common than *P. jocosus*. Two nests were found. One, 2½ feet from the ground in a small palm in a garden in Kota Bharu, contained one egg (30 March, 1951). The other, 7 feet up in a bush in a grazing area at Melor, had two young (13 April).

433a. *Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus* Blyth.

Large Olive Bulbul.

A nest was found in a *Sëndudok* bush, *Melastoma malabathricum* Linn., growing on the bank near the 44th mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Jerleh on 9 May, 1951. The nest was about 4 feet from the ground, and the bank rose roughly 5 feet above the road. The nest was the usual bulbul structure, but, like the nests of *P. jocosus*, it was decorated with bamboo leaves on the outside. It contained two young chicks, 4-5 days old.

455. *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri* (Parrot).

Siberian Stone-Chat.

This bird is said to be not uncommon in the northern Malay States during the winter months, but only an occasional vagrant further south. Bromley (1949: 127) says that he saw it frequently on the Alor Star race-course and in similar situations in Kedah during this period. I have only three records for Kelantan: a female seen sitting on a fence between two padi-fields at Salor, near Kota Bharu, on 23 December, 1950: a cock seen at Repek early in February 1951: and two cocks seen on the aerodrome at Pengkalen Chepa on 8 March, 1951.

465. *Gerygone sulphurea* Wall.

Fly-eater.

This species is said to be widespread, and in parts plentiful, in the north-western Malay states (Gibson-Hill, 1949: 198). It also occurs on the Kelantan plain, but only in small numbers.

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466. *Cisticola juncidis malaya* Lynes.

Streaked Fantail Warbler.

The Streaked Fantail Warbler is common in suitable open country in Kelantan. Three nests were found, all in dry padi at Melor. The first, which was discovered on 27 January, contained two freshly laid eggs; unfortunately the birds deserted when the rest of the padi was cut, and the clutch was probably incomplete. The other two nests, both containing three eggs, were found on 25 February.

468. *Prinia flaviventris rafflesi* Tweed.

Yellowbellied Wren-Warbler.

This bird is not as common in Kelantan as it is on the west coast of Malaya. No nests were found.

472. *Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis* (Temm. & Schleg.).

Great Reed-Warbler.

A single example was seen in a padi field near Kota Bharu on 30 January, 1951. This bird does not appear to be very common in Kelantan.

472bis. *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* Swinhoe.

Blackbrowed Reed-Warbler.

Several examples of this species were seen in padi on the Experiment Station at Kota Bharu on 17 February, 1951. *A. bistrigiceps* had not been recorded south of Koh Pennan (approx. lat. 9° 45' N.), off the Bandon Bight, Peninsular Siam, when the Malayan Checklist was written. Subsequently, on 4 December, 1949, an adult male was taken on the edge of the wooded section of the Nee Soon catchment area, on Singapore Island (Gibson-Hill, 1950b: 119). The present record, therefore, constitutes the second for this country.

475. *Phylloscopus inornatus inornatus* (Blyth).

Crowned Willow-Warbler.

A single example was seen in padi on the Experiment Station at Kota Bharu on 24 February, 1951. This bird is said to be fairly common in Peninsular Siam during the winter months, but it would seem to be relatively scarce in the Malay states: the only previous records are for Kedah, Penang Hill and Perak.

482. *Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis* Moore.

Longtailed Tailor-Bird.

This is the commonest of the tailor-birds in Kelantan. Four nests were found in or near Kota Bharu: a nest in two large leaves of a sapling growing in a well 2 feet below the ground, 3

recently hatched chicks, 3 March, 1951; a nest in a single large leaf, about 2 feet above the ground, 2 chicks and an egg, 10 March; a nest in two large leaves, 16 April; and a nest in a single leaf, 16 April. The last contained 4 eggs, 17×11.5 , 16.5×11 , 16.5×11 and 16.5×11 mm: the eggs were pale Nile blue, with a few rather coarse auburn spots and blotches, mostly round the broader end.

501. *Muscicapa tickelliae sumatrensis* (Sharpe).

Whitebellied Blue Flycatcher.

This bird is very common in Kelantan in the villages and on the edge of the jungle. Breeding has been recorded from Peninsular Siam, but not from Malaya. A nest containing 3 eggs was found at Kampong Telipot, Kota Bharu, on 10 April, 1951. It was in the top of a sawn-off bamboo, about 18 inches from the ground. It was 3 inches in diameter, with the cup $1-1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep. It was composed of rootlets, and lined with bents and rootlets, and placed on a pad of dead bamboo and other leaves. The eggs measured 18×14 , 19×14 and 19×14 mm.

505. *Muscicapa mugimaki* Temm.

Black-and-Orange Flycatcher.

A single example was seen at Kota Bharu on 25th August, 1950.

522. *Anthus novaeseelandiae malayensis* Eyton. Malay Pipit.

Nests of this species were found as follows: Melor, 25 February, 1951, 3 eggs; Kota Bharu, 26 February, 2 eggs; Melor, 4 April, 3 eggs, 19.5×15 , 19×15 and 19×15 mm.; Melor, 23 April, 2 chicks and 2 eggs, 19.5×15 and 20×15 mm.; and Melor, 24 May, two nests destroyed while ploughing, 1c/3 and 1c/4, eggs 20×15.5 , 20×16 , 19.5×15 , 19.5×15 , 19.5×15 , 20×15 and 19.5×15 mm.

523. *Lanius schach bentet* Horsf.

Greybacked Shrike.

A single example seen on a telephone wire at Pengkalan Chepa, 10 April, 1951. This is the first record of the occurrence of this bird in the east coast States.

524. *Lanius cristatus* Linn. subsp.

Brown Shrike.

First arrival seen at Kota Bharu, 24 August, 1950: last bird seen, Kota Bharu, 17 May, 1951. My earliest record for Telok Anson, Perak, was 10 September (1946).

530. *Acridotheres fuscus torquatus* Davidson. Buffalo Mynah.

By far the most common Mynah in Kelantan and Northern Trengganu, occurring in flocks of up to 15.

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532. *Acridotheres tristis tristis* (Linn.). Common Mynah.

Although a common cage bird, I have seen few in a feral state and then only near towns or villages (Kota Bharu, Bachok, Besut and Kuala Trengganu). I am not satisfied that these constitute a genuine spread from the north as has occurred on the west of the Peninsula, as they may be birds that have escaped from captivity.

549. *Arachnothera chrysogenys chrysogenys* (Temm.). Yelloweared Spider-hunter.

An unfinished nest was found on the under surface of a banana leaf on the edge of the jungle near the 31st mile on the road from Kuala Trengganu to Jerangau. The nest was 19 inches long, including the entrance tunnel, with a maximum breadth of 4½ inches and a depth of 3 inches. The lining had not been completed. *A. chrysogenys* is common in this area. This is the first Malayan record of a nest, though the bird is apparently widely distributed in jungle country to an altitude of about 3,000 feet throughout the mainland.

552. *Dicaeum cruentatum ignitum* (Begg.). Scarletbacked Flower-pecker.

A very attractive nest of this species was found at Melor on 13 May, 1951. It was situated in a Jering tree (*Pithecellobium jiringa*) at a height of about 7 feet from the ground. The nest was made of glistening white floss, said to be composed of *Chékati lima* and *Lémak kětam* fibres, and was well camouflaged with leaves. It was 3½ inches high, 2¼ inches from back to front and about 1½ inches wide. The young flew early in June.

- 570a. *Munia leucogastra leucogastra* (Blyth). Whitebellied Munia.

This bird is common along the Nibong road in Kelantan and on the Jerangau road in Trengganu. It does not appear to have been recorded previously from the latter State, and the only published record for Kelantan is a bird seen by A. T. Edgar at Kuala Pergau (in Gibson-Hill, 1949: 250).

575. *Emberiza aureola aureola* Pall. Yellowbreasted Bunting.

A solitary female was seen in scrub near the Rest House at Kuala Trengganu on 1 April, 1951. The only detailed published records of its occurrence in Malaya are for Penang Island, October 1932 and October 1948 (Cairns, in Gibson-Hill, 1949: 252).

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Summary

This paper gives a selection from notes made on the birds of Kelantan and northern Trengganu during the author's residence at Kota Bharu, Kelantan, from August 1950 to May 1951. It includes the first Malayan records of the nests of,

- Coracias benghalensis affinis* McClell. (Checklist No. 267).
 - Muscicapa tickelliae sumatrensis* (Sharpe). (No. 501).
 - Arachnothera c. chrysogenys* (Temmin.). (No. 549).
- and notes on the occurrence in this area of several species rare or scarce in Malaya, including *Milvus migrans*, *Accipiter badius*, *Eurostopodus macrotis*, *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps*, *Phylloscopus inornatus*, *Lanius schach* and *Emberiza aureola*.

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